



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
REGISTRY OF VITAL RECORDS AND STATISTICS

## CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

### DATA ON CURRENT CERTIFICATE

1. PLACE OF BIRTH				
(City/Town)			(State/Country)	
2. FULL NAME OF CHILD				
3. SEX	4A. PLURALITY	4B. BIRTH ORDER	5. DATE OF BIRTH	
			(Month)	(Day) (Year)
6. MOTHER'S NAME			7. FATHER'S NAME	
(First)	(Middle)	(Last)	(Maiden/Birth Surname)	

### AMENDED BIRTH CERTIFICATE DATA

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INFORMATION TO APPEAR ON AMENDED CERTIFICATE				
1. PLACE OF BIRTH				
(City/Town)			(State/Country)	
2. CHILD'S NAME				
(First)	(Middle)	(Last)		
3. SEX	4A. PLURALITY	4B. BIRTH ORDER	5. DATE OF BIRTH	
			(Month)	(Day) (Year)
MOTHER'S INFORMATION:				
6. MOTHER'S NAME			7. RESIDENCE (AT TIME OF ADOPTION):	
(First)	(Middle)	(Last)	(Maiden)	
(NO. STREET) CITY OR TOWN STATE ZIP CODE				
8. DATE OF BIRTH			9. PLACE OF BIRTH	
(Month)	(Day)	(Year)	(City/Town)	(State/Country)
10. OCCUPATION**				
**Complete Occupation at the time of adoption only if the birth took place prior to June 1, 1986. Otherwise, leave blank.				
FATHER'S INFORMATION:				
11. FATHER'S NAME			13. PLACE OF BIRTH	
(First)	(Middle)	(Last)	(City/Town)	(State/Country)
12. DATE OF BIRTH			14. OCCUPATION**	
(Month)	(Day)	(Year)		
**Complete Occupation at the time of adoption only if the birth took place prior to June 1, 1986. Otherwise, leave blank.				

15. We, the adoptive parents of the above named child, do hereby request that this certificate of adoption be used to amend the birth record.		
SIGNATURES		
16. I hereby certify that the child described above was adopted by the named parents on the _____ day of _____ 20_____ and the name was changed to _____ as set forth in the decree of adoption made on that date by the Probate Court in _____ County.		
17. SIGNATURE AND SEAL	18. DATE SIGNED	19. DATE FORWARDED



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION (R-891)

1. **CHILD BORN IN MASSACHUSETTS**—Send completed order form either to the city or town where the child was born or the State Registry of Vital Records and Statistics. The amendment process may begin at either location. Do not give the order directly to the parents. **Do not send a copy of this certificate of adoption to the community where the adoptive parents reside unless it is the community where the child was born.**
2. **CHILD BORN ELSEWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES OR CANADA**—Send the completed order to the Massachusetts State Registry of Vital Records and Statistics. The Massachusetts State Registry of Vital Records and Statistics will forward the order to the appropriate State or Provincial Registry. The adoptive parents (or their legal representative) may be contacted regarding fees for amendment or other issues relating to the amending of the record in the other jurisdiction. A record should not be established in Massachusetts for the children in such cases. The child's original legal birth record is in the jurisdiction where the birth took place. If this record is not amended, the child could face problems later if he or she does not have a corrected birth record.
3. **CHILD BORN SOMEWHERE OTHER THAN THE UNITED STATES OR CANADA**—The optimal method is for the adoptive parents to amend the child's original birth record. If the child was born in a country where this is not feasible, and the child is being adopted by Massachusetts's resident(s), this Certificate of Adoption should be given to the parents or their legal representative. The parents must provide additional information and evidence to the city or town clerk in the community where they reside in order to establish a birth record for this child. It is important to understand that the adoption order and the child's naturalization papers are the most important documents for a child in this case. **Any birth certificate established is of secondary importance and is, for example, not proof of citizenship.**